

Serial No. 10/642,784
Amdt. dated April 21, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10 (canceled)

11 (currently amended): A lid for use with a beverage container having an open top with a lip, said lid comprising:

a generally dome-shaped top portion having a periphery conforming in shape to the open top of the container;

a rim portion around said periphery of said top portion, said rim portion having a ~~means~~ continuous, annular, inwardly extending ring adapted to latch under the lip of the container, said rim portion adapted to snap over the lip of the container to seal said rim portion to the lip of the container; and

a drinking spout formed in said lid and extending outwardly therefrom, said spout having ~~an at least one aperture~~ an elongated slot in communication with the inside of the container, said ~~aperture slot~~ slot having a shape and area wherein the surface tension of a liquid in the container in contact with the aperture is greater than or equal to atmospheric pressure, said slot having an external opening area greater than an internal opening area of said slot.

12 -14 (canceled)

15 (currently amended): The lid as set forth in claim [[14]] 11 wherein said slot has a width of approximately in the range of 0.02 inches to 0.06 inches.

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16 (currently amended): The lid as set forth in claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11 wherein said slot has a length of approximately in the range of 0.3 inches to 0.7 inches.

17 (currently amended): The lid as set forth in claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11 wherein the length of said slot is approximately in the range of 5 to 35 times the length of said slot.

18 (currently amended): The lid as set forth in claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11 wherein said spout includes a plurality of slots.

19 (canceled)